

CLAIMS:

1. A method for facilitating unlisted market transactions by a party over a computer network,
5 comprising the steps of allowing a first user to enter information regarding an unlisted market transaction by the party, the information including one or more characteristics which describe the unlisted market transaction, and posting the information to a point on the
10 computer network which is accessible by other users, wherein the point on the computer network identifies the information as having been entered by the first user.
2. The method in accordance with claim 1, comprising the further step of preventing the user from entering
15 information regarding the identity of the party.
3. The method in accordance with claim 1, comprising the further step of removing information regarding the identity of the party prior to posting the information to the point on the computer network.
- 20 4. The method in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 3, further comprising the step of comparing the posted information against other information regarding other unlisted market transactions, and if the information meets a predetermined matching criteria, generating a match
25 condition and communicating the match condition to the first user.
5. The method in accordance with claim 4, whereby the step of comparing the posted information against other information regarding other unlisted market transactions
30 comprises the further step of comparing key words regarding each unlisted market transaction against key words regarding each of the other unlisted market

- 62 -

transactions, and generating the match condition if the key words match.

6. The method in accordance with claim 4 or claim 5, comprising the further step of ascribing a value to each
5 of the one or more characteristics, and comparing the value of each characteristic in the entered information against a corresponding characteristic in other entered information, to derive a rating value therefrom.

7. The method in accordance with claim 6, comprising the
10 further step of comparing the rating of each unlisted market transaction to a predetermined value, whereby, if the rating value is greater than the predetermined value, a match condition is generated.

8. The method in accordance with any one of the
15 preceding claims, further comprising the step of verifying the information entered by the first user against a predetermined set of verification criteria, wherein the information entered by the first user is not posted to a point on the computer network if it does not comply with
20 the predetermined set of verification criteria.

9. The method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of allowing the first user to provide post-transaction information once the transaction is completed, wherein the
25 post-transaction information is posted to a point on the computer network accessible by the other users.

10. The method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of allowing the first user to enter the information or
30 post-transaction information via a predetermined form containing a series of questions.

11. The method in accordance with claim 10 comprising the further step of providing a plurality of forms, and

- 63 -

allowing the user to choose a relevant form from the plurality of forms, whereby the relevant form contains questions that allow the user to enter information relevant to a specific event.

5 12. The method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, comprising the further step of storing the entered information and the post-transaction information, whereby the stored information is utilised to perform a statistical analysis of the unlisted market
10 transactions.

13. The method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, wherein the point on the computer network is a web site associated with the first user.

14. The method in accordance with any one of the
15 preceding claims, wherein the first user is an agent which is authorised to act on behalf of the party.

15. The method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the steps of the first user entering information into a first server
20 arranged to receive information regarding an unlisted markets transaction by the party, the first server posting the information to a point on the computer network.

16. The method in accordance with claim 15, comprising the further step of the first server providing the
25 information to a second server, the second server being arranged to compare the unlisted market transaction against other unlisted market transactions by other parties, and, if a match condition is generated, report the match condition to the user.

30 17. The method in accordance with claim 16, comprising the further step of one of the first and second servers sending the information to a third server arranged to receive and store the entered information, wherein the

- 64 -

stored information is utilisable to perform a statistical analysis of the unlisted market transactions.

18. The method in accordance with claim 16, or claim 17, comprising the further step of providing a plurality of
5 first servers, each first server being associated with a different user.

19. The method in accordance with any one of claims 16 to 18, comprising the further step of only generating a match condition between entered information that resides on a
10 single first server.

20. A system for facilitating unlisted market transactions by a party over a computer network, comprising means for allowing a first user to enter information regarding an unlisted market transaction by
15 the party, the information including one or more characteristics which describe the unlisted market transaction, and means for posting the information to a point on the computer network which is accessible by other users, wherein the point on the computer network
20 identifies the information as having been entered by the first user.

21. The system in accordance with claim 20, further comprising means for preventing the user from entering information regarding the identity of the party.

25 22. The system in accordance with claim 20 or claim 21, further comprising means for removing information regarding the identity of the party from the information.

23. The system in accordance with any one of claims 20 to 22, further comprising means for comparing the posted
30 information against other information regarding other unlisted market transactions, and if the information meets a predetermined matching criteria, generating a match

- 65 -

condition and communicating the match condition to the first user.

24. The system in accordance with claim 23, further comprising means for comparing the posted information
5 against other information regarding other unlisted market transactions, wherein key words associated with each unlisted market transaction are compared and a match condition is generated if the key words match.

25. The system in accordance with claim 23 or claim 24,
10 further comprising means for ascribing a value to each of the one or more characteristics, means for comparing the each value of the one or more characteristic in the posted information against a corresponding characteristic in the other information, wherein a rating value is derived
15 therefrom.

26. The system in accordance with claim 25, further comprising means for comparing the rating of each unlisted market transaction to a predetermined value, wherein, if the rating value is greater than the predetermined value,
20 a match condition is generated.

27. The system in accordance with any one of claims 20 to 26, further comprising means for verifying the information entered by the first user against a predetermined set of verification criteria, wherein the information entered by
25 the first user is not posted to a point on the computer network if it does not comply with the predetermined set of verification criteria.

28. The system in accordance with any one of claims 20 to 27, further comprising means for allowing the first user
30 to provide post-transaction information once the transaction is completed, wherein the post-transaction information is posted to a point on the computer network accessible by the other users.

- 66 -

29. The system in accordance with any one of claims 20 to 28, further comprising means for allowing the first user to enter the information or post-transaction information via a predetermined form containing a series of questions.

5 30. The system in accordance with claim 29, further comprising means for providing a plurality of forms, and means for allowing the user to choose a relevant form from the plurality of forms, wherein the relevant forms provide questions that allow the user to enter information
10 relevant to a specific event.

31. The system in accordance with any one of claims 20 to 30, further comprising means for storing the entered information and the post-transaction information, wherein the stored information is utilised to perform a
15 statistical analysis of the unlisted market transactions.

32. The system in accordance with any one of claims 20 to 31, wherein the point on the computer network is a web site associated with the first user.

33. The system in accordance with any one of claims 20 to
20 32, wherein the first user is an agent which is authorised to act on behalf of the party.

34. The system in accordance with any one claims 20 to 33, further comprising means to allow the first user to enter information into a first server arranged to receive
25 information regarding an unlisted markets transaction by the party, the first server posting the information to a point on the computer network.

35. The system in accordance with claim 34, further comprising communication means to allow the first server
30 to provide the information to a second server, the second server being arranged to compare the unlisted market transaction against other unlisted market transactions by

- 67 -

other parties, and, if a match condition is generated, report the match condition to the user.

36. The system in accordance with claim 35, further comprising means for one of the first and second servers
5 to send the information to a third server arranged to receive and store the entered information, wherein the stored information is utilisable to perform a statistical analysis of the unlisted market transactions.

37. The system in accordance with claim 35 or 36, wherein
10 a plurality of first servers are provided, each first server being associated with a different user.

38. The system in accordance with any one of claims 35 to 37, wherein a match condition is generated only between entered information that resides on a single first server.

39. A system for facilitating unlisted markets
15 transactions by a party, comprising, a first server arranged to receive information from a user regarding an unlisted markets transaction by the party, the first server being arranged to post the information to a point
20 on the computer network and provide the information to a second server, the second server being arranged to compare the unlisted market transaction against other unlisted market transactions by other parties, and, if a match condition is generated, report the match condition to the
25 user.

40. A system in accordance with claim 39, comprising a third server arranged to receive and store the entered information regarding the unlisted markets transactions by a party and the other entered information regarding other
30 unlisted markets transactions by other parties, wherein the stored information is utilisable to perform a statistical analysis of the unlisted market transactions.

- 68 -

41. The system in accordance with claim 39, or claim 40, wherein there is provided a plurality of first servers, each first server being associated with a different user.

42. The system in accordance with any one of claims 39 to 5 41, wherein a match condition is generated between entered information that resides on a single first server.

43. The system in accordance with claim 41 or claim 42, wherein a match condition is generated between entered information that resides on different first servers.

10 44. A computer program arranged, when loaded on a computing system, to implement the method of claim 1.

45. A computer readable medium providing a computer program in accordance with claim 44.